

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	6 - 2 - 1
Yeas:	Bentz, Boone, Dembrow, Reardon, Vega Pederson, Bailey
Nays:	Johnson, Whitsett
Exc.:	Weidner
Prepared By:	Adam Crawford, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/7, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows Watershed Conservation Operating Fund and Watershed Conservation Grant Fund moneys to be used by Oregon Department of Education (ODE) acting on behalf of one or more school districts. Allows Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to establish program through ODE that provides funds for elementary school hands-on learning programs related to protection and restoration of native fish, wildlife habitats, watersheds or ecosystems.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Outdoor School
- Current Outdoor School funding model
- Ballot Measure 76 and Watershed Conservation Grant Fund
- Measuring outcomes of Outdoor School

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Watershed Conservation Fund and the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund comprise the majority of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's funding and are used for either agency operations or providing grants to local watershed groups. House Bill 2516 would make it possible for those funds to be granted to outdoor education programs like the Outdoor School as well.